



Senator Eide's Week in Review
March 7-11

In the Spotlight: Session Update—What Happens Next?

An important deadline came and went at 5:00PM on Monday. This was the “cut-off” for voting on policy bills in their house of origin. Most bills, excluding those that are necessary to implement the budget, had to be approved by either the House or Senate in order to move forward in the legislative process this session. That means Senate bills had to be passed out of the Senate in order to be eligible for consideration in the House, and House bills had to be passed out of the House in order to be eligible for consideration in the Senate. If a bill was not voted on and passed out of its house of origin it will no longer be considered this session, but can be discussed again next year.

On Tuesday, lawmakers began the next step in the legislative process which consists of holding committee hearings on bills that passed out of the opposite house prior to the March 7th “cut-off”. If bills are passed out of committee they are eligible to be voted on by the opposite house. We will see less floor action in the coming weeks as the focus returns to these committee hearings.

March 25th is the next legislative “cut-off” date that is fast approaching. This is the last day to read in committee reports from the opposite house (with the exception of House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees). See the table below for a complete session cutoff calendar:

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2011 Session Cutoff Calendar

January 10, 2011	First Day of Session
February 21, 2011	Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
February 25, 2011	Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
March 7, 2011	Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
March 25, 2011	Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 1, 2011	Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 12, 2011*	Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).
April 24, 2011	Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.
* After the 93rd day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.	

Cooperation trumps confrontation—and delivers better policy:

The notion of bipartisanship may sound quaint and even antiquated in this age of talk radio and attack politics, but you can't argue with the results. So far this session, thoughtful discussion and negotiations have led to the passage of a wide range of legislation with strong support on both sides of the aisle.

It's a simple formula, really, though it's often easily derailed. But the best way to craft sound policy is through constructive debate that balances the needs of all Washingtonians.

Key legislation that is still alive after the “cut-off” deadline that affects the 30th District:

[HB 1716](#): This bill, to reduce home burglaries, was passed out of the House of Representatives. Representative Asay and I will continue to refine this legislation as it moves through the Senate to ensure that families and their property are both protected under the law.

[HB 1091](#): The passage of this bill is vital to meeting the urgent needs of businesses and unemployed workers across Washington State. This bill provides permanent tax relief to 90 percent of employers around the state to the tune of roughly 300 million dollars. In addition to tax relief for employers, this bill extends unemployment benefits for 70,000 unemployed workers across the state by making the state eligible for federally funded, extended unemployment benefits through 2011. It is also important to note that neither the tax break nor the benefits expansion have anything to do with the state operating budget—the increase in unemployment benefits are funded with federal dollars, and the tax break comes from a healthy trust fund that is funded by employers.

[SB 5036](#): The legislation I’m working on to extend funding for the Department of Ecology account to manage and control excessive sea lettuce beyond the sunset date of June 30, 2012 passed out of the Senate. This legislation is important for preventing an over abundant growth of "sea lettuce" in the Dumas Bay area off of Federal Way which can cause severe environmental damage.

[SB 5154](#): Was voted out of the Senate and was drafted to address a recent rise in thefts from parked cars by making vehicle prowling in the second degree a class C felony if the thief has two or more prior convictions for vehicle prowling in the second degree. While the rate of stolen cars has dropped, thefts of property from inside cars have increased. Police believe car thieves have shifted from stealing cars, which carries a more serious penalty, to sending out crews to ransack cars because the penalties are more lenient than for car theft.

[SB 5504](#): The Colby Thompson Bill of 2011, named after an infant from the 30th District who was abused in an unlicensed child care facility, was voted out of the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. This bill moves Washington one step closer to ensuring that our children are in the hands of educated, competent care providers.

[SB 5674](#): I'm pleased to announce that Senate Bill 5674, creating an aerospace training student loan program, passed unanimously out of the Senate. This is particularly important because a recent report to the legislature found that despite our state's current economic downturn, the aerospace industry created 1700 new jobs in the past few months. The award of the \$35 billion Boeing tanker contract is estimated to create an additional 11,000 new jobs for Boeing. The problem now is finding ably trained technicians for those positions. This legislation will assist in training workers to fill many of these family wage, high demand aerospace positions. This bill is quickly moving through the legislative process and had a public hearing in the House Labor & Workforce Development Committee on March 8th.

[SB 5764](#): The Senate this week passed legislation to help make Washington the nation's leader in clean energy and other groundbreaking technologies by creating a statewide consortium to be known as Innovate Washington. The program will help Washington examine areas of state expertise and ramp them up to compete globally by combining the Washington Technology Center and the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute into a statewide program to optimize the transfer of technology between the state's research institutions and businesses.

Bills that did NOT pass before "cut-off" deadline:

[SB 5093](#): This proposed piece of legislation, that did not pass, would have decreased levy equalization funding to school districts across Washington State, including Federal Way. This decrease in funds could have had detrimental effects on our children.

[SB 5318](#): This bill to retain the Office of Regulatory Assistance did not make it to the Senate floor for a vote. House companion bill HB 1178, on the other hand, did pass before “cut-off.” I support this bill because I believe that this agency serves the public while eliminating waste from the legislative system by providing valuable support to help business address overlapping authority, duplications and conflicts in environmental permits.

[SB 5847](#): I sponsored this bill because it would help railways provide safety precautions for workers around walkways and at crossways but unfortunately, this bill was not moved out of the Senate Transportation Committee before “cut-off.” Although this legislation will not move forward this year I remain committed to promoting railroad safety.

Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA):

This week I had the pleasure of being visited by Board Members of the WATPA including King County Prosecutor Dan Satterburg, and Sheriff John Lovick. The 30th District has a history of being represented on the WATPA Board. Merle Pfiefer, Chief Executive Officer of Federal Way's Sparks Car Care, served a two-year Gubernatorial appointment on the Auto Theft Prevention Authority that ended November 2009.

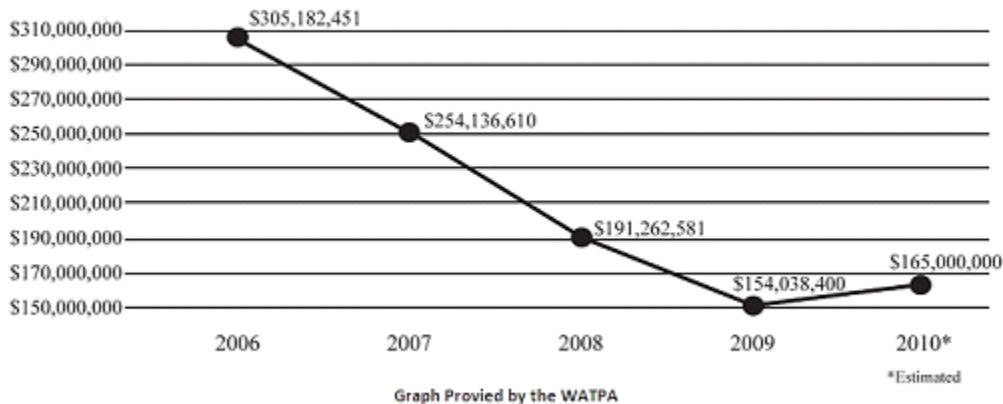
In 2007, I was a prime sponsor of the bill that first created the WATPA account. The account is funded with a ten dollar surcharge on traffic infractions and expenditures from the account are allotted to education, prevention, law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution and confinement associated with motor vehicle theft and related crimes. Since July 1, 2007 the WATPA has given out 9.4 million dollars. South King County PATROL Task Force has benefited greatly from the allocation of this money in the tune of \$800,000 in the 2010-2011 biennium.



Senator Eide with Sheriff John Lovick and King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg

According to the WATPA 2010 Annual Report, efforts to reduce motor vehicle theft in Washington State have been successful. Since July, 2007, Washington State ranks among the nation's leaders in overall decline in motor vehicle thefts with a 48.1 percent reduction over the past four years.

COST OF MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN WASHINGTON STATE (2006-10)



The graph above illustrates a 49 percent decrease in the estimated cost of motor vehicle theft for Washington residents over a four year period. Motor vehicle theft cost to residents was \$305,182,451 in 2006 and dropped to approximately \$165,000,000 in 2010.

Save money when filing your taxes:

We're working hard in the Legislature to find whatever ways we can to help folks cope with the recession. Here is one avenue that's already available for free — the Internal Revenue Service's Free File program that lets 100 million Americans safely and quickly file their federal taxes online.

The service is open to taxpayers who earned less than \$58,000 in 2010. Eligible taxpayers can use the industry's top tax preparation software for free, with step-by-step help to prepare, complete and file their federal tax returns.

You can [learn more and access the software here](#).

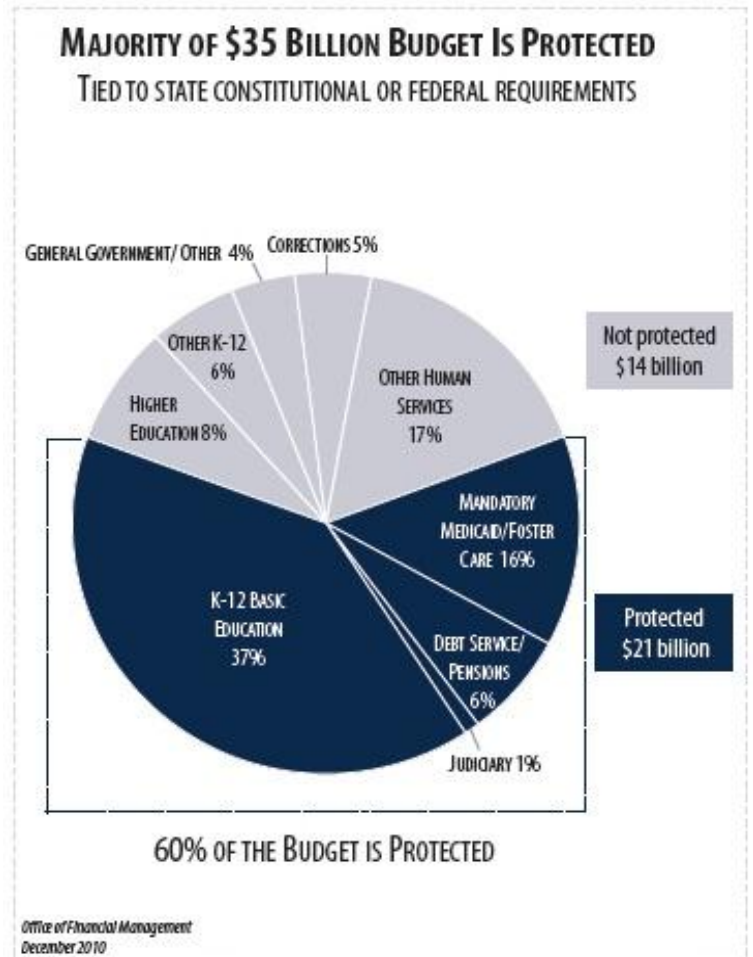
Washington State Budget Update:

This year, legislators are faced with the difficult task of crafting the state budget for the 2011-13 biennium. In the last two years the Governor and the legislature have cut \$12 billion from the state budget—and this year it looks like we will have to cut \$5 billion more.

Last session the legislature passed a limited tax package of \$761 million to fund critical education, health care and social service programs. Last year, I voted for this revenue package because I am a strong supporter of our schools, ensuring children and families have access to health care as well as helping those in great need. Last November, Washington and 30th District voters overwhelmingly passed Initiative 1107 (two out of every three voters) and in doing so eliminated the \$761 million that funded so many needed programs. Voters state-wide and in the 30th District also passed Initiative 1053 that requires a two-thirds majority to close tax loopholes or increase revenue. I have heard and received your message loud and clear.

As the economic recession continues, the legislature is facing yet another shortfall: \$5 billion. Of Washington's \$35 billion budget, 60% is protected by Constitutional or federal requirements. That means we have \$14 billion from which we must cut \$5 billion. This area is made up of human services such as health care and job training, corrections and prisons, higher education and various critical K-12 programs. Governor Chris Gregoire has already released her budget proposal and the Senate and House of Representatives are hard at work crafting their own versions. This will undoubtedly be a long and painful process for everyone; the Senate will release its budget in mid-March.

I am deeply concerned that vital and valued services will be cut. Many of these are public services that I took office to protect—like public education, public safety and health care. But, we are faced with a stark reality and have few options to choose from. As the coming weeks unfold, I will be sure to stay in constant communication to keep you updated on our progress.



This Week's Visitors from the 30th District:

If you are ever in Olympia and are from the 30th District, please visit my office: Legislative Building 305. I would love to see you!

*Annette Coder, Multi-Service Center

*Roger Flygare, Court Reporter

*Buffy Tyroum, Assisted Living Home Owner

*Webb Peterson, Assisted Living Home Owner

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